

# Virginia Department of Historic Resources

## PIF Resource Information Sheet

This information sheet is designed to provide the Virginia Department of Historic Resources with the necessary data to be able to evaluate the significance of the property for possible listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. This is not a formal nomination, but a necessary step in determining whether or not the property could be considered eligible for listing. Please take the time to fill in as many fields as possible. A greater number of completed fields will result in a more timely and accurate assessment. Staff assistance is available to answer any questions you have in regards to this form.

<b>General Property Information</b>	For Staff Use Only DHR ID #: 053-6345
Property Name(s): <u>Old Welbourne</u>	
Property Date(s): <u>1812</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Circa <input type="checkbox"/> Pre <input type="checkbox"/> Post    Open to Public? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Limited <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Property Address: <u>21398 Willisville Road</u> City: <u>Bluemont</u> Zip: <u>20135</u>	
County or Ind. City: <u>Loudoun</u> USGS Quad(s): <u>Bluemont</u>	

<b>Physical Character of General Surroundings</b>	
Acreage: <u>100+</u> Setting (choose one): <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Corridor	
Site Description Notes/Notable Landscape Features: Over 100 acres of open farmland, still in crop production and cattle. Farm located on rolling dirt road, Willisville Road, in rural Loudoun County. Manor house sits at end of long drive, between two planted fields. Manor house was originally built in mid-19th century in the Victorian revival style and largely renovated in the neo-Georgia style in the early 20 <sup>th</sup> century. Virginia traditions of hunting and farming still play an active role in shaping this property.	
Secondary Resource Description (Briefly describe any other structures (or archaeological sites) that may contribute to the significance of the property: Garden features (garden wall, pool house and pool), garage, stable, pole barn, mid 20 <sup>th</sup> c farming complex (double silos and feeding shed), tenant house, root cellar, Dulany home site, early 19 <sup>th</sup> c. farming complex (bank barn foundation and retaining wall), original road trace, field stone walls, Dulany family cemetery.	
Ownership Category: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Public-Local <input type="checkbox"/> Public-State <input type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal	

<b>Individual Resource Information</b>	
What was the historical use of this resource? Examples include: Dwelling, Grist Mill, Bridge, Store, Tobacco Barn, etc...	
<u>Farming – crops and cattle; hunting</u>	
What is the current use? (if other than the historical use) <u>same</u>	
Architectural style or elements of styles: <u>Neo Georgian</u>	
Architect, builder, or original owner: <u>Dulany</u>	
# of stories <u>3</u> Condition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Rebuilt <input type="checkbox"/> Renovated	
Are there any known threats to this property? <u>No, property is in conservation easement, current owner intends to restore original homestead</u>	

### Resource Component Information

Please answer the following questions regarding the individual components of the resource. If the component does not exist, answer "n/a." If you feel uncomfortable in answering the question, please leave the space blank. Photographs of the features can also help our staff identify specific feature components. Usually, priority is given to describing features on the primary (front) facade of the structure.

**Foundation:** Describe the foundation that supports the structure. Examples include piers, continuous brick, poured concrete.  
brick

**Structure:** Describe the primary structural component of the resource. Include primary material used. Examples include log, frame (sawn lumber), and brick. Also include the treatment, such as a particular brick bond or type of framing, if known.  
brick

**Walls:** Describe the exterior wall covering such as beaded weatherboard or asbestos shingles.  
brick

**Windows:** Describe the number, material, and form of the primary windows. This includes the number of panes per sash, what the sashes are made of, and how the sashes operate (are they hinged or do they slide vertically) Have the windows been replaced? Downstairs windows are unique 4/8 double-hung, floor to ceiling wood windows. Second floor are 4/4. Tall, vertical proportions.

**Porch:** Briefly describe the primary (front) porch. List the primary material, shape of the porch roof, and other defining details. Semi-circular, double story in brick base with four Doric columns supporting second floor.

**Roof:** Describe the roof, listing the shape and the covering material.  
Standing seam

**Chimney(s):** List the number of chimneys and the materials used. Include the brick bond pattern if possible.  
Six, brick

**Architectural Description of Individual Resource:** *(Please describe architectural patterns, types, features, additions, remodelings, or other alterations. A sketch of the current floor plan would be appreciated.)*

#### Main House, circa 1852 (contributing)

The main house is a three-story dwelling of brick construction, originally built in the Victorian Revival style circa 1852. Likely in the early 20<sup>th</sup> c, the house was altered to the neo-Georgian style, distinguished by symmetrical side wings and dentil molding. The front elevation is three bays with gable roof over projecting center bay, marking the front entrance.

The house faces west and a semi-circular, double story entrance portico supported by four Doric columns, characterizes the front elevation. The main block of the front elevation marks the outline of the original mid-19<sup>th</sup> century structure. Side wings were added in the 20<sup>th</sup> c.

The front door is distinguished by a single leaf six-panel wood door with heavy brass fox-head knocker. Side lites and arched transom above distinguish the door surround. Five original, vertically proportioned double-windows grace the main block of the front elevation and are again mimicked by the windows on the side wings.

The original, main block of the 19<sup>th</sup> c dwelling is a two over two with center hall running on an east west axis. Two north and south wings and rear kitchen addition were added in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. There is a full basement below the original 19<sup>th</sup> century block.

#### Garden features: wall, pool house and pool, early to mid- 20<sup>th</sup> c (contributing)

The garden wall, pool house and pool complex create a side yard landscaping feature which is integrated with the architecture of the main house. (see first floor and landscaping plan.) The pool house is six course running bond with a segmented brick arch defining the central doorway. A pyramidal roof, with wood shakes, defines the character of this ornamental building. The garden walls are capped with molded brick.

#### Garage, 20<sup>th</sup> c. (non-contributing)

The original garage has been heavily altered to become a wash stall and tack room supporting the stable facility. The front of the garage has been enclosed and the building is sided in unpainted weather-board. On the front elevation and west elevation, there are six over six double hung wood windows. The door is a single lead wood door with divided half lite above. The garage was

connected to the stable with the two buildings were re-roofed. Although the garage was built on a 19<sup>th</sup> c stone foundation, little original building material remains.

#### **Stable, 19<sup>th</sup> c. (contributing)**

The stable is a two-story, nine stall frame structure. Built in the bank barn style, this stable has a modest overhang to create a west facing work area and four roof monitors for ventilation. Stall doors are built in the vernacular style with top and bottom double door and X-bracing. Siding is board and batten and the structure sits on a field stone foundation. The standing seam tin roof replaced the original in early 2000's. This stable was in use for the main residence for over 150 years.

#### **Pole Barn 19<sup>th</sup> c (contributing)**

The machine shed is a single-story, five-bay pole barn, open at the front elevation with the rear enclosed by board and batten siding which is punctuated by six square openings, indicating the structure may have been designed original for livestock. Like the stable, it sits on a banked, fieldstone foundation. The roof is a long gable end low-pitched roof covered in standing seam tin.

#### **Mid 20<sup>th</sup> c farming complex: double silo, feeding sheds (non-contributing)**

This farming complex to support a cattle operation was likely installed by Erskine, who tried to farm the property. Double silos can be seen from neighboring properties. The cattle feeding shed has a concrete floor and tin roof with four open sides. This farming complex is located northeast of the 19<sup>th</sup> bank barn foundation.

#### **Tenant House, early 20<sup>th</sup> c (non-contributing)**

The house is one and a half stories, with a three bay wide front elevation with overhang comprising the front porch and three dormers above. The tenant house is clad in aluminum siding and is located 500 yards west of the original house site.

#### **Root cellar, early 19<sup>th</sup> c (contributing)**

This early 1800's root cellar has walls of coarsely laid field stone, small openings for ventilation on the north and south sides and walk-in access on the west side, which has been boarded over. The root cellar is located approximately 500 yards west of the original home site, next to the tenant house.

#### **Contributing Sites:**

##### **Dulany home site, circa 1812 (contributing) DHR (053-1044)**

The foundation, chimneys and architectural trim pieces remain of the original Dulany cabin. The dwelling was originally a two-over-two log structure with board and batten siding with exterior stone chimney at the south elevation. The existing chimney likely dates to early 20<sup>th</sup> c. A later one-and-half story stone addition was constructed to create the front elevation. Although in ruinous condition, significant architectural pieces remain including a notched corner of the original log cabin, interior trim chair rail, fireplace mantle silhouette. As well, the entire foundation and some wall structure remain including outline of doorway locations and steps. A 'discovery period' to recover other architectural clues of the original structure is planned.

##### **Early 19<sup>th</sup> c farming complex: bank barn foundation and large retaining wall, circa 1812 (contributing)**

A large, three-sided bank barn foundation sits northeast of the cabin with a tall, retaining wall to the east. Only the stone walls remain.

##### **Original road trace, early 19<sup>th</sup> c (contributing)**

The original road trace leading to the main east/ west road, which leads to Crednal and Welbourne, remains. The original stone gate posts, which mark the original entrance to Old Welbourne Farm (at that time, Welbourne Farm, not 'Old' Welbourne) are no longer part of the property but remain standing along Quaker Lane.

##### **Dulany family cemetery 1878, (contributing)**

Located southeast of the original 1812 cabin, this family cemetery contains – gravestones dating from 1878. The cemetery is surrounded by thick fieldstone walls, capped with Bull Run limestone and is shaded by old growth hemlock trees. Four masters of the Piedmont Fox Hunt are buried here, including Erskine Bedford, the only non-member of the Dulany family. The high cross on some graves indicates their high Anglican faith. Although Old Welbourne farm has transferred out of Dulany family ownership, the cemetery has not.

##### **Fieldstone walls, early 19<sup>th</sup> c, (contributing)**

Fieldstone walls, indicative of historic field boundaries and road traces in the region, are found throughout the property. The walls are all made from dry-laid fieldstone using indigenous stones. The walls appear to date from the 19th century and are in good condition. Dry laid field stone walls are indigenous to Loudoun County and a character defining feature.

**Significance Statement:** Briefly note any significant events, personages, and/or families associated with the property. (Detailed family genealogies are not necessary.) Please list all sources of information. It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or genealogies to this form. Normally, only information contained on this form will be posted for consideration by the State Review Board.

### Statement of Significance

Old Welbourne, located along state Route 626 near Bluemont in rural Loudoun County, is significant as an example of the evolving Virginia plantation. The original 2,000-acre tract, originally owned by Daniel French, whose family immigrated from England and were loyalist; who never occupied the property, passed the land, as a way to transfer wealth to each successive generation, until one family member finally settled and farmed. In 1811, John Peyton Dulany (1785-1878) received 503 acres from his parent and built the first known dwelling on Old Welbourne, a log cabin built circa 1812. As the family amassed wealth in the new world, the Dulanys enlarged their modest cabin with a plastered, stone addition; and later acquiring a nearby property, abandoning the stone cabin for more luxurious accommodations, more fitting for a successful Virginia planter. Although the original cabin remained vacant, the Virginia family returned to the farm, building a much larger brick residence, reflecting their social and economic status fitting for a wealthy planter of the antebellum South. The Dulanys were successful farmers and accomplished horsemen. John Dulany amassed a substantial wealth through his farming. His son, Colonel Richard H Dulany (1820-1906), was an avid foxhunter, founding the Piedmont Fox Hounds, the nation's oldest organized hunt. As well, Colonel Dulany started the Upperville Colt and Horseshow, the nation's oldest horseshow, as a way to encourage local farmers to take better care of their breeding stock.<sup>1</sup> The property stayed in Dulany family ownership for over 200 years when it was sold in 1959 to Erskine Bedford of Maryland. The Bedfords continued the Virginia tradition of farming and hunting. Also a horseman, Erskine became a Master of the Piedmont Hunt and President of the Upperville Horse show, upholding the Dulany legacy. The Dulanys embraced the Bedfords and Erskine is the only non-member of the Dulany family to be buried at the family cemetery. Upon Erskine's death, Old Welbourne passed to his three children, who sold the property in 2006. The property transferred again in 2013 to the current owner, the Bondi family. The property is protected in conservation easement.

The house, dependencies, cemetery and original road traces, which remain on the property, all bear witness to the patterns of history, which shaped this traditional Virginia plantation. The period of significance spans from 1811, when John Peyton Dulany received the land from his family and when settlement began. The period of significance ends when the 1963, marking the 50 year cut off.

+++

Old Welbourne is part of an original 2,000 acre tract, originally owned by Daniel French, who passed the property to his daughter Elizabeth French Dulany (1757-1824) of Alexandria. Upon her divorce in 1808 from her husband Benjamin Dulany, the couple's property was divided among their twelve children. In December 1811, John Peyton Dulany received 503 acres in Loudoun as part of his parents' settlement, divided from a larger 2,000-acre tract reportedly purchased by his grandfather Daniel French.<sup>2</sup> The following year John Peyton Dulany married Mary Ann deButts (1783? – 1855) of Mt Welby in Prince George County, Maryland. The property was named Welbourne, after Welbourne Hall in Lincolnshire where Mary Ann was born.<sup>3</sup> The exact year of the construction of their original Welbourne cabin is not known except in 1813, the log portion was complete. As well, the couple did not have a garden; maybe indicative they had been busy with construction rather than planting.

In 1813, Mary Ann fell ill and received a visit from her parents, who traveled from Alexandria to help care for her. In a letter from Mary Ann's mother Mary Welby deButts to her family in England, Mary Welby describes life at Welbourne:

*"Mr. Dulany's farm is a fine level spot, the land is very rich, has many excellent springs upon it – plenty of wood and stone for building ... The house is very small, consisting only of two little rooms below and the same above. Mr. D hopes in a few years by industry and attention to his farm to be enabled to build a more commodious residence. They seem however to be perfectly content & happy in their snug Cottage and if it pleases God ... they will live comfortably. The neighborhood chiefly consists of plain industrious but independent People chiefly Quakers, there are very few Slaves in that part of Virginia."*<sup>4</sup>

Shortly after constructed, the cabin was enlarged with a one-and-a-half story stone and plaster addition built on the front elevation. By 1815, John Peyton Dulany received an additional 252 acres.<sup>5</sup> By 1833, John had continued to prosper as a farmer and purchased 80 acres and the home of Joanna Lewis, across from Crednal (DHR No. 053-0141) the home of his sister, Louisa

<sup>1</sup> Both the Piedmont Fox Hounds and the Upperville Horse Show remain in operation. Old Welbourne remains a hunt fixture for Piedmont Fox Hounds. The Upperville Horse Show is held on a farm nearby.

<sup>2</sup> Elizabeth French Dulany and Benjamin Tasker Dulany of Alexandria. Elizabeth was the godchild of George Washington. Reports that Daniel French's father purchased the land cannot be confirmed; likely it was part of Fairfax County at that time. (See Margaret Ann Vogtsberger, *The Dulanys of Welbourne*, introduction.)

<sup>3</sup> Dulanys of Welbourne, p. xiv

<sup>4</sup> 1813 letter from Mary Anne DeButts to her brother Richard Early Welby, residing in England.

<sup>5</sup> It is not clear if this was another inheritance or if the land was purchased.

Dulany deButts.<sup>6</sup> Reportedly during this time the Welbourne cabin burned. With four children and two older family members to care for, John Peyton Dulany may have chosen to move to the new farm rather than rebuild. The family would name this new property 'Welbourne,' (DHR No. 053-0129) relinquishing the name 'Old Welbourne' to the original home site. In 1845, Julia Ann, a daughter of John Peyton and Mary Ann Dulany, married Samuel Roszel, a minister. By 1852, Julia Ann and her husband returned to Old Welbourne both renovating the original cabin, building the brick manor house, stables and pole barn.<sup>7</sup>

One of John Peyton Dulany's sons, Colonel Richard Henry Dulany (1820-1906) was an avid horseman, founding the Piedmont Fox Hounds in the 1840's. Upset by how farmers were treating mares in foal, he also founded the Upperville Colt and Horseshow in 1853 to encourage farmers to take better care of the bloodstock. Colonel Dulany offered his Morgan stallion so neighbors could upgrade their stock. A Tiffany cup was designed and awarded to offspring of Dulany's Morgan stallion.<sup>8</sup> Colonel Richard Henry married his cousin, Rebecca Anne Dulany (1828-1858). They had five children, who they raised at Welbourne. Their second son, Richard 'Hal' Dulany served as a Colonel in the 7<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry, Laurel Brigade during the Civil War.<sup>9</sup> During the Civil War, John Peyton Dulany lived with them at Welbourne.

John Peyton Dulany died at Welbourne in 1873 and his will indicates that he died as one of Loudoun's richest men. Although living at Welbourne, by then an elegant home, John Peyton Dulany chose to return to Old Welbourne to be buried and it was at his death that the Dulany cemetery was established. The cemetery remains today, protected by a fieldstone wall, capped with Bull Run limestone. Tall crosses on some of the Dulany graves indicate their High Church Anglican heritage.<sup>10</sup>

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> c., Dr. A. C. Randolph (1915-1988), who married Eva 'Terry' Dulany (1887-1933), granddaughter of Colonel Dulany, lived at Old Welbourne. Eva died young, leaving Old Welbourne to their three children.<sup>11</sup> Dr. Randolph married his first wife's sister 'Cuppy,' (1884 - 1941) making sure to maintain his rights to residency at Old Welbourne. Old Welbourne stayed in the family, although abandoned by the 1950's after Cuppy's death.

In 1959, Old Welbourne changed out of Dulany ownership when Erskine Bedford of Maryland purchased the property from the Randolph family. In the deed, the family graveyard was expressly not conveyed and remained in family ownership.<sup>12</sup> Since the house had been abandoned for several years, the Bedfords engaged the Handbacks to restore the home, adding rear porches and living in the groom's cottage during construction. Erskine Bedford later became the Master of the Piedmont Fox Hounds. Upon his death, the Bedford family requested permission that Erskine be buried at Old Welbourne. He is the only non-member of the Dulany family in the cemetery and the fourth Master of the Piedmont Foxhounds to be buried in the Dulany family cemetery.

Today, the Bondi family, who plan to continue in the farming and foxhunting traditions, owns the property. The Bondi family intends to restore the original Old Welbourne 1812 cabin. The land is protected by conservation easement.

## Resources

Scheel, Eugene M. *Loudoun Discovered: Communities, Corners & Crossroads*. Friends of the Thomas Balch Library: Leesburg, 2002.

Vogtsberger, Margaret Ann, *The Dulanys of Welbourne*, Rockbridge Publishing Company: Berryville, 1995.

Bergner, Audrey Windsor, "Old Plantations and Historic Homes around Middleburg, Virginia," Volume II. Unpublished manuscript.

Reid, Frances, "Old Welbourne Changes Owners for First Time in 200 Years. *Loudoun Times Mirror*, November 19, 1959

---

<sup>6</sup> Louisa Dulany deButts married Richard deButts also in 1812. Richard was Mary Ann's brother and lived adjacent to Mary Ann and John Peyton Dulany. Brother and sister Dulany married brother and sister deButts.

<sup>7</sup> Scheel, Eugene. *Loudoun Discovered: Communities, Corners & Crossroads*. Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, 2002 p. 104

<sup>8</sup> Dobson, Gwen, *Middleburg and Nearby*. Rpbert and Gwen Dobson, 1986. P.68.

<sup>9</sup> Colonel Dulany's service is inscribed on his tombstone at the Old Welbourne cemetery.

<sup>10</sup> Scheel, p 106.

<sup>11</sup> LCWB 3X, 201, 1933 Randolph children inherited land from their mother, Eva Randolph 384 acres.

<sup>12</sup> LCDB 398/643, 1960